

North Dallas Tornado Response

City Council Briefing
November 6, 2019

**Rocky Vaz, Director,
Office of Emergency
Management**



City of Dallas

Purpose/Overview

- Storm Overview
- Emergency Notification
- Outdoor Warning System
- Emergency Operations Center Activation
- Public Safety Response
- Damage Assessment
- Debris Strike Teams
- Transition to Sanitation
- Equipment and Fleet Management
- Multi-Agency Resource Center
- Disaster Declaration
- Ongoing/Next Steps





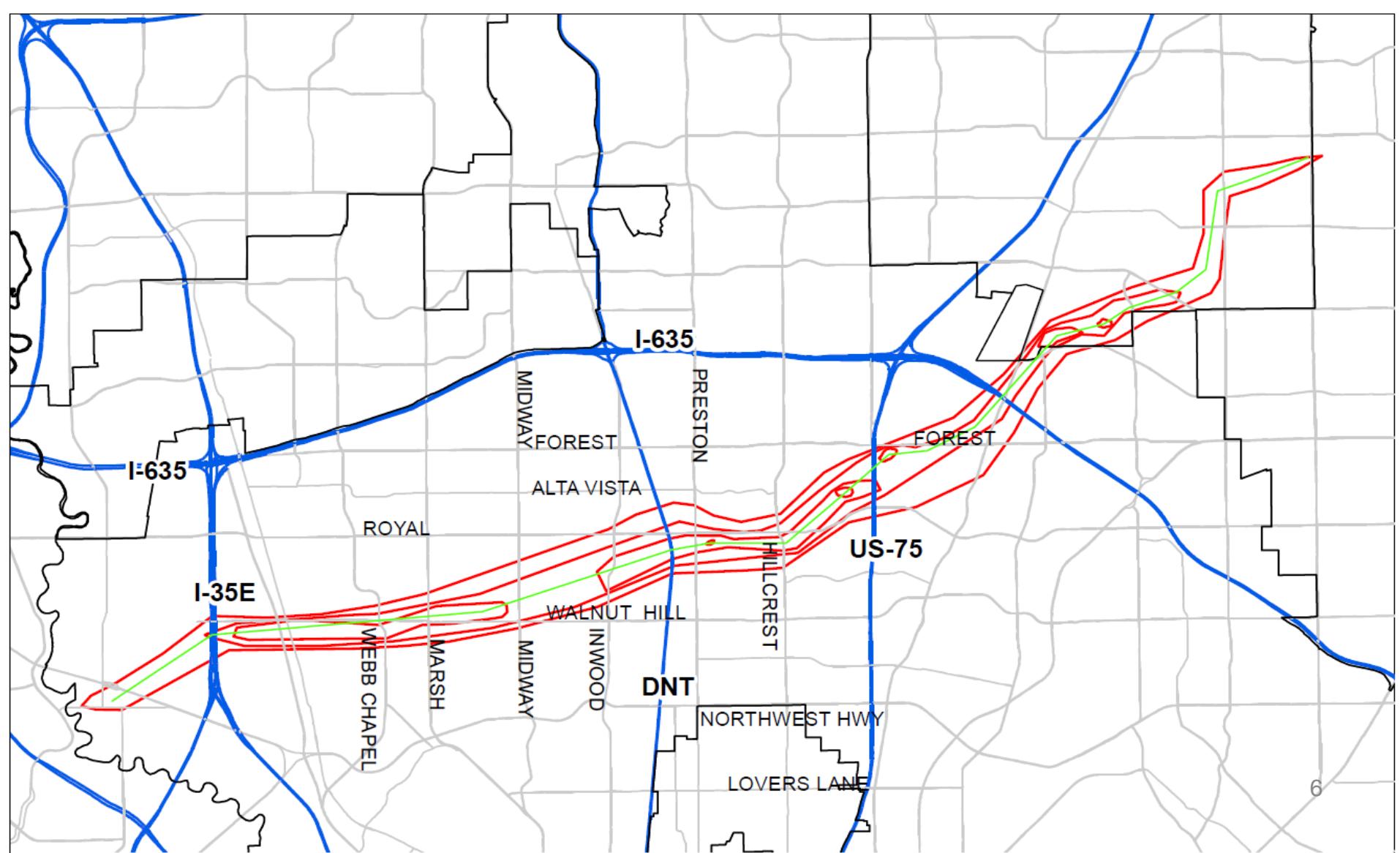
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City of Dallas

Storm Overview

- National Weather Service (NWS) forecast two rounds of severe weather on Sunday with a low tornado threat
- A Tornado Watch was issued by the NWS at 7:00 PM
- First tornado warning issued at 9:01 PM for Northwest Dallas County
- Second tornado warning issued at 9:34 PM for Southern Dallas County
- EF-3 tornado tracked across North Dallas causing major damage



10/20/2019 Tornado | City of Dallas

Destroyed | 106

Major | 287

Minor | 356

Affected | 156



Emergency Notification

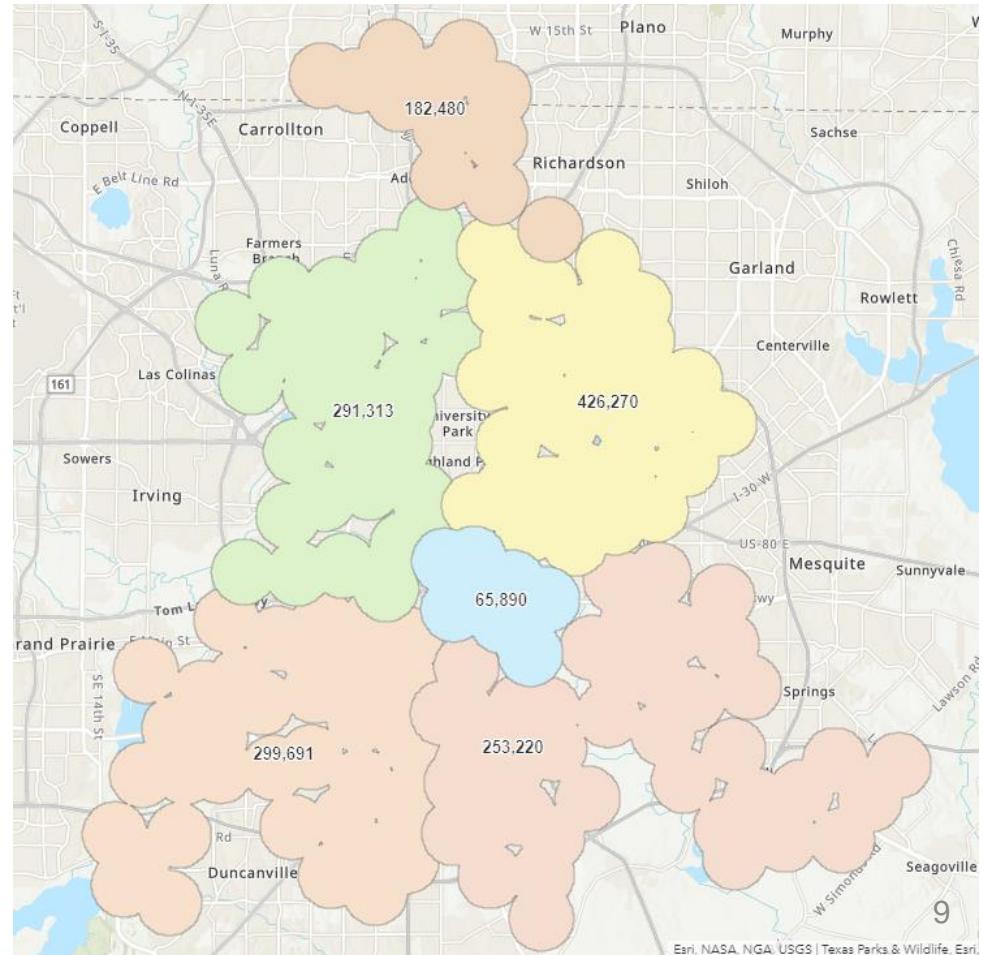
- Emergency Alert System activated by NWS for television broadcast
- NWS issued a Wireless Emergency Alert for Dallas County
- Office of Emergency Management (OEM) activated the sirens in Northwest, Far North, and Northeast zones for first tornado warning
- OEM activated the sirens in the Southwest and Southeast zones for second tornado warning

Outdoor Warning System (OWS)

- Organized into six zones to cover all areas of the city
- The OWS is only meant to be heard by those outdoors so they may take cover and seek additional information
- OEM manages 162 Outdoor Warning Sirens
- Sirens are activated in response to tornado warnings issued by the NWS

OWS Zone Overview

- Northwest
 - Sirens: 26
 - Population: 291,313
- Far North
 - Sirens: 10
 - Population: 182,480
- Northeast
 - Sirens: 37
 - Population: 426,270
- Southwest
 - Sirens: 39
 - Population: 299,691
- Southeast
 - Sirens: 40
 - Population: 253,220



Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

- At 9:30 PM, the EOC was activated by OEM staff
- Notification was made to all Directors and Executive Leadership to report to the EOC
- First EOC briefing was held at 10:30 PM
- Mayor and key city staff delivered first press conference at 10:30 AM, 10/21



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Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

- The EOC activated on a 24-hour basis until Monday, 10/28
- All tornado response, debris removal, and damage assessment was coordinated from the EOC
- The EOC demobilized on Friday, 11/1



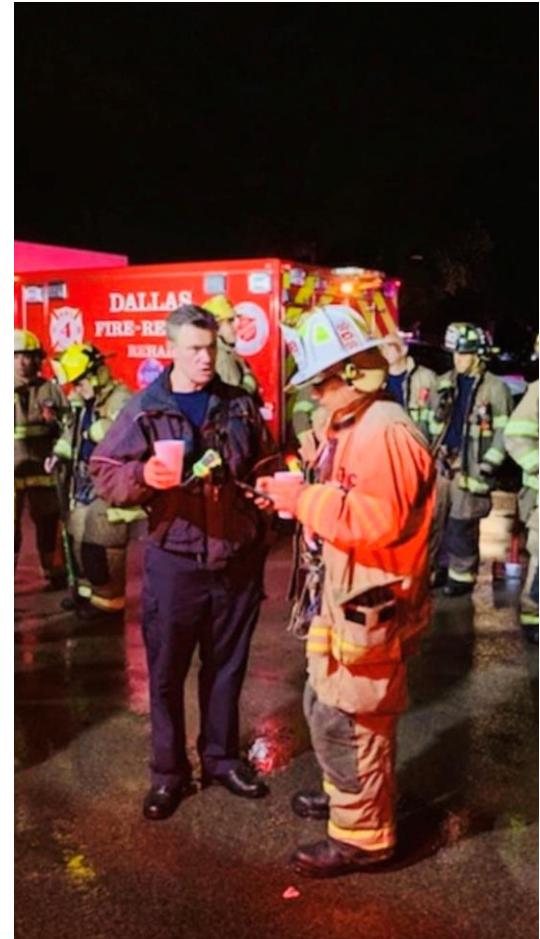
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Public Safety Response (Initial Actions)

- Dispatched to widespread reports of collapsed buildings
- Assigned two (2) Deputy Chiefs to establish an east (E) and a west (W) branch
- Established a Command Post at Marsh and Walnut Hill
- Established Command Structure
 - Chief Ball-Incident Commander
 - Chief Salazar- Operations
 - Chief Williams-Planning and SPOPS

Public Safety Response (Strategy)

- Primary Priorities
 - Organization
 - East Branch and West Branch
 - Established Staging
 - Geofenced damage area
 - Communication
 - Moved radio channel
 - Dispatch routed calls to command post
 - Search and Rescue (rapid primary search)
 - Evaluated every damaged structure
 - Searched each structure with major damage



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Public Safety Response (Strategy)

- Secondary Priorities
 - Secondary search
 - Established a forward command post
 - Damage assessment
 - Geosuite mapping technology
 - Established search team
 - Evaluated every building in affected area
 - Destroyed, Major damage, minor damage, affected, or not affected



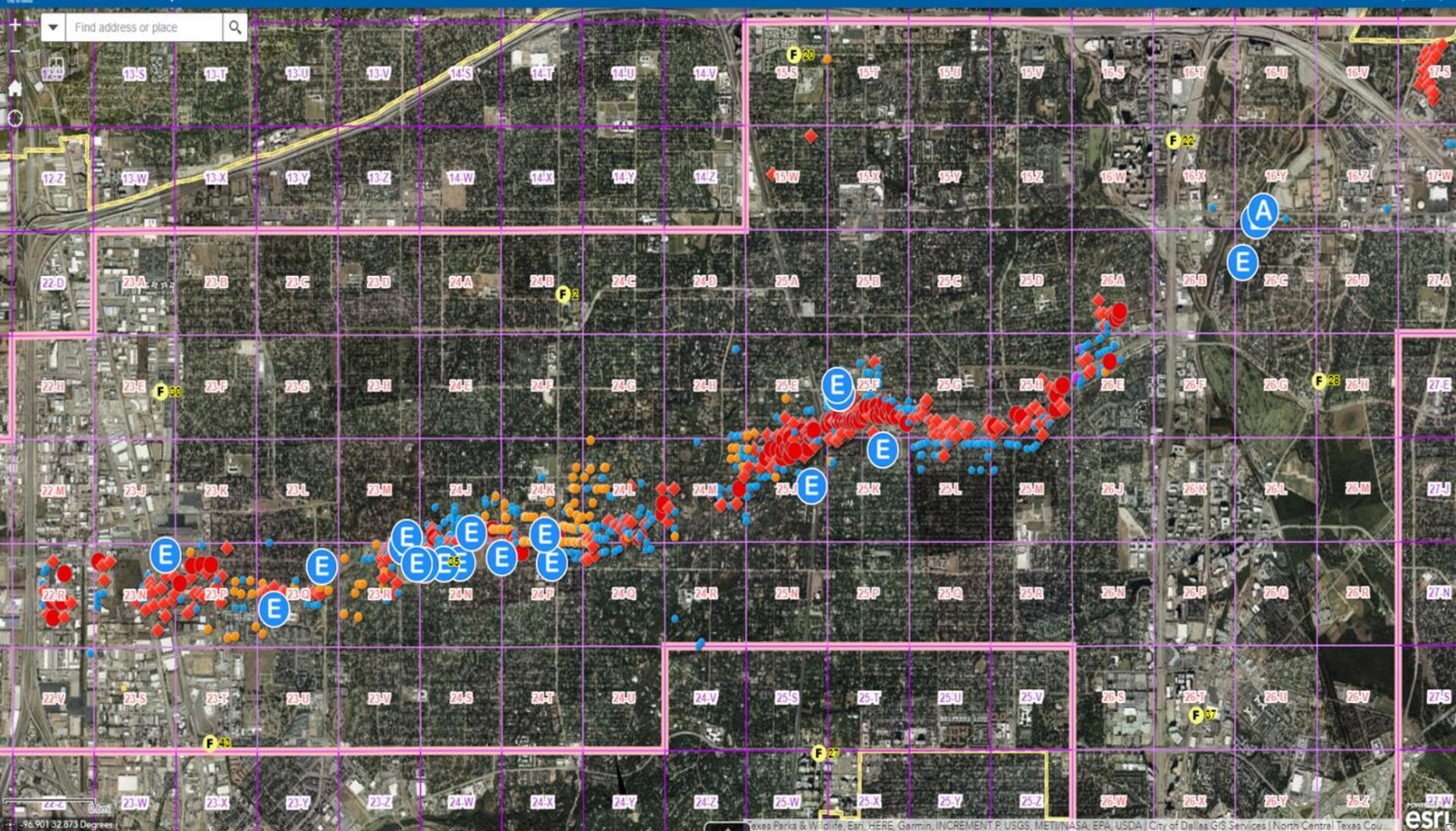
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Damage Assessment

- Team of emergency managers from the region worked with DFR command to conduct a damage assessment
- Results (residential and commercial buildings):
 - Destroyed: 106
 - Major Damage: 287
 - Minor Damage: 356
 - Affected: 156
 - Total: 905



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Public Safety



Debris Strike Teams

- After the initial damage assessment the City took a coordinated inter-agency and inter-departmental approach to clear roads.
- Key Challenges:
 - Roadways were unpassable
 - Wires intermingled with debris
 - Scale
 - Urgency
- **Goal:** Clear and open the Roadways



Debris Strike Teams

Composition of Debris Strike Teams

- Team Lead
- 311 Agent/Logistics Officer
- Code Inspector
- Oncor Representative
- Police Squad
- Saw Teams
- Heavy Equipment
- Collection Teams
- Safety Officer

Debris Strike Teams

- Mutual Aid: The Cities of Fort Worth, University Park, Allen, Richardson, Arlington, Grand Prairie and Mesquite sent teams and equipment to aid our strike teams in their response.



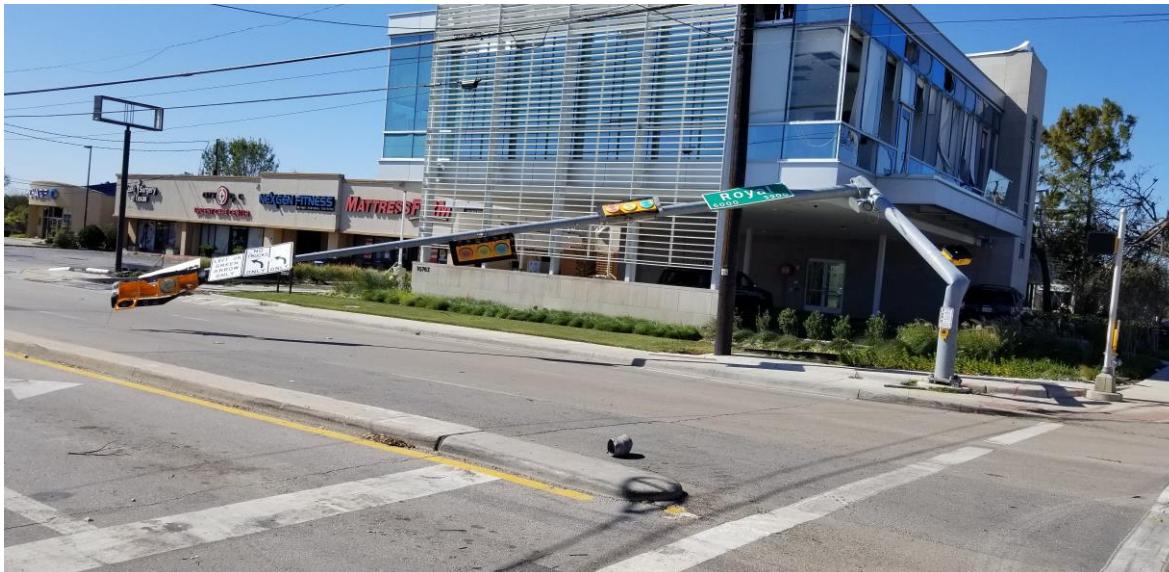
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Debris Strike Teams

- Saw teams cleared trees, poles, and wires
- Heavy equipment teams used bulldozers and Bobcats to clear debris and piles from streets
- Collection teams used boom trucks and dump trucks to clear massive piles of debris from the roads
- It was reported that these teams completed 3 weeks worth of work in 3 days

Transportation Team

- When a strike team cleared a road, Transportation Engineers were dispatched to the street to ensure all the signals and signs were in place to safely open the road.



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Debris Strike Teams

- 7 strike teams deployed daily from 10/23 until 10/27.
- Over 400 personnel, and 200 pieces of equipment responded each day.
- Met nightly with Incident Command to assess our progress and evolve our plans as needed.
- As of 10/27, the City had achieved the goal of clearing and opening roadways and transitioned to Sanitation to complete the Debris pick up.

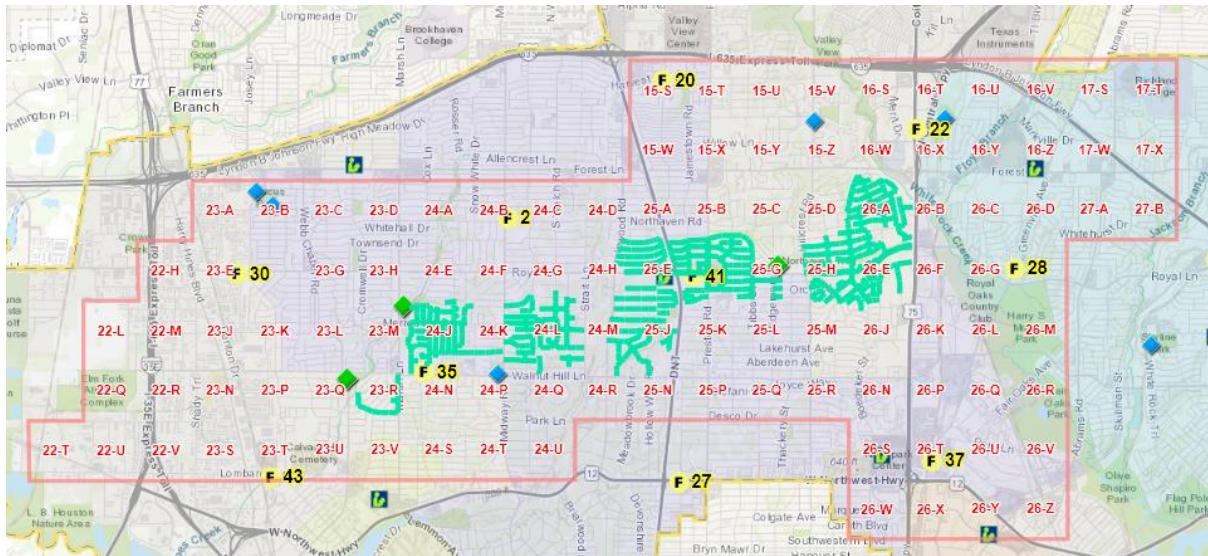
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Transition to Sanitation

- Collection Teams were split into 5 groups to align with the five (5) Sanitation Collection districts
- Each team included Sanitation equipment and crews, contractor debris collection units, inter-departmental dump trucks and personnel, and mutual aid partners. All divided each day among the 5 groups.
- Deployed to 5 grids evenly spread throughout the impacted area.
- All debris was hauled to either Bachman Transfer Station or an approved temporary site at TI Blvd and IH 635.

Transition to Sanitation

- Areas collected each day were and will continue to be reported via public GIS portal.



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Transition to Sanitation

- On November 2nd, collections were turned over to a new contractor acquired to comply with FEMA collection guidelines.
- Collections contractor is deployed with a debris monitoring agency that records all collection and hauling activities.
- Debris removal is estimated to be complete by the end of November. Estimated debris totals will be between 250,000-300,000 cubic yards.

Transition to Sanitation

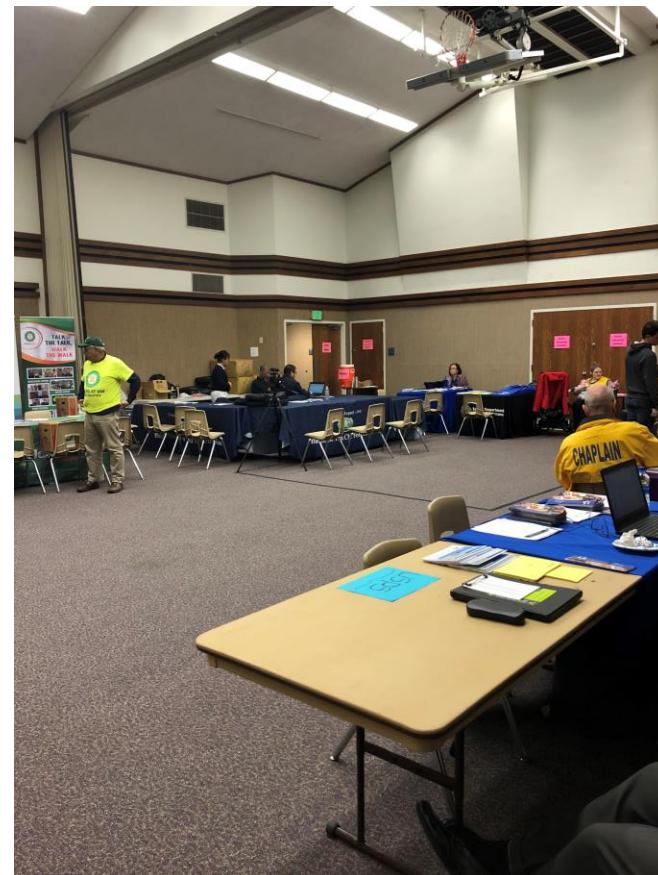
- Bulk and Brush collection services returned to normal on November 4th.
 - Beginning with those areas of Week 3 that remained uncollected and into Week 4.
 - Contract crews are deployed with Sanitation crews in an effort to return to the normal collection schedule by December.

Equipment & Fleet Management (EFM)

- EFM has provided fuel and minor equipment repairs to all partner agencies supporting the City's Strike Team efforts.
- EFM has extended hours of maintenance operations to accelerate turnaround time.
- EFM has coordinated with Purchasing on rental of equipment and repurposing existing equipment owned by the City.

Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC)

- City of Dallas opened a Multi Agency Coordination Center (MARC) on Saturday, 10/26/2019 at the Latter Day Saints on Midway Road.
 - Managed by Dallas County VOAD
 - Staffed by various voluntary organizations
 - 500+ contacts for immediate relief and case management thus far



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Disaster Declaration

- When multiple jurisdictions within Dallas County are impacted by a hazard, the County Judge may declare a disaster (declared)
- A County Disaster Declaration is sent to the governor, who may declare a State Disaster (declared)
- This activates the full resources of the State
- If the threshold for uninsured losses (\$38.5M) is met, the Governor may request a Federal Disaster Declaration
 - Routed through FEMA Region 6 to the President
- A Federal Disaster Declaration allows Federal funds for cost-share reimbursement
 - 75% of uninsured losses reimbursable

Ongoing/Next Steps

- FEMA and the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) conducted preliminary damage assessment (PDA)
- This is the first step to determining if the statewide \$38.5 Million threshold is met
- The PDA was concluded on 10/31, and we are awaiting for results from FEMA for a Presidential Disaster Declaration
- If a Presidential Disaster Declaration is granted, the city will become eligible for Public Assistance
 - 75%/25% cost share

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